

Message Text

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44

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 29501

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/WE AND "A" BUREAU (THOMAS)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, US

SUBJECT: MARTINIQUE SUMMIT

REF: PARIS 29028

1. FOLLOWING ARE BIORAPHICAL SKETCHES OF TWO MEMBERS OF GISCARD'S PERSONAL MILITARY STAFF WHO WILL ACCOMPANY THE FRENCH PRESIDENT TO MARTINIQUE (COMPLETE LIST OF PARTY IN REFTEL).

2. LT. GEN. GUY MERY, 55, CHIEF OF THE PRESIDENT'S MILITARY STAFF. MERY, AN ARMOR OFFICER, GRADUATED FROM ST. CYR IN 1940. FIGHTING IN THE RESISTANCE, HE WAS ARRESTED BY THE GESTAPO IN 1944 AND DEPORTED FIRST TO STRUDTHOF AND THEN TO DACHAU. AFTER THE WAR, HE SERVED IN VIETNAM, WHERE HE COMMANDED MOUNTAIN TROOPS AND SERVED AS A LIAISON OFFICER TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION, AND IN ALGERIA, WHERE HE COMMANDED DRAGOONS. HE WAS COMMANDER OF THE 8TH MECHANIZED DIVISION, STATIONED IN COMPIEGNE, FRANCE, WHEN CALLED TO THE ELYSEE IN JULY, 1974. HE SPEAKS NO ENGLISH.

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3. MAJOR FRANCOIS VALLAT, 36, JUNIOR MEMBER OF THE
ELYSEE MILITARY STAFF. A GRADUATE OF THE ECOLE DE L'AIR
(AIR FORCE ACADEMY, VALLAT IS A PILOT WITH EXTENSIVE
SERVICE FLYING F-100S AND MIRAGE 3S; HE WAS A MIRAGE
3 SQUADRON COMMANDER WHEN ASSIGNED TO THE ELYSEE IN
1973. HIS ENGLISH ABILITY IS UNKNOWN.
RUSH

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